

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-35 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 11 are amended. Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

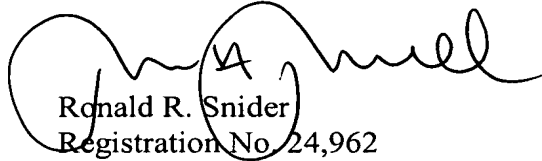
The Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-11 and 20-35, and the allowance of claims 13-18.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 12 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,710,377 to Shimomura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,323,063 to Krames et al. (hereinafter "Krames"). The rejection has been rendered moot because the allowable features of dependent claim 7 have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 4 and 5.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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